Capsule history of Montana's Abandoned Mines Land Program SB 142

High-priority coal mine reclamation

- 206 high-priority coal reclamation projects completed on about 1,500 abandoned coal mines
- Reclamation projects addressed mine fires and surface burning, unsafe pits and highwalls, clogged stream lands, open shafts and adits, waste dumps, contaminated or threatened public water supply systems, acid-mine drainage, and illegal waste dumping.
- Completion of high-priority coal projects allowed work on non-coal projects

Montana Silver Smelter cleanup at Giant Springs State Park/Fish Hatchery





- Cleanup of state park land and hatchery workers' residential areas
- Drawdown of reservoir required behind Rainbow Falls to remove waste from stream banks along Missouri River.
- Project completed in 13 months, from start of sampling to completion of construction to clear area for Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities at Giant Springs.

Comet Mine and Mill Site and High Ore Creek cleanup



- Cooperative project with federal Bureau of Land Management and landowners
- Watershed cleanup restored fish to High Ore Creek
- Project recognized with
 2006 National Abandoned
 Mine Reclamation Award

Colorado Mining District Priority Sites Cleanup

- Seven cleanup projects on Upper Prickly Pear Creek
 - o Alta Mine site
 - o Bertha Mine and Mill site
 - o Gregory Mine, Mill and Smelter site
 - o Wickes Smelter site
 - o Bluebird Mine site
 - o Washington Mine and Mill site
 - o Big Chief Mine and Belle Lode

Spring Hill Mine and Mill Reclamation Project

- Project immediately south of Helena
- Developed reclaimed area as open space jointly with Prickly Pear Land Trust

Helena National Forest assumed site ownership

Hazardous materials inventory and evaluation at abandoned hard rock mine priority sites

- Performed inventory and geochemical sampling at 359 sites
- Modeled data and scored and ranked all evaluated sites
- Work provides basis for all subsequent hard rock mine AML projects